

**The Washington State Early Learning Partnership Joint Resolution  
Between  
The Washington State Department of Early Learning  
And  
The Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
And  
Thrive By Five Washington, the Early Learning Fund**

**Whereas,** The Washington State Department of Early Learning, the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Thrive by Five Washington (the Early Learning Fund) are committed to collaborate on behalf of all young children and families in Washington State in developing a strong, comprehensive early learning system for all children birth to age eight; and

**Whereas,** we believe that this will only be achieved through a commitment to share responsibility and accountability towards this vision; and

**Whereas,** we commit to jointly support the development of a high-quality, aligned early learning system that respects and reflects the rich diversity of children and families throughout our state; and

**Whereas,** at the heart of our shared efforts is our understanding that “school readiness” encompasses four concepts:

Ready Children + Ready Schools + Ready Parents and Families  
+ Ready Communities

**Ready children** are healthy and socially, emotionally, and cognitively prepared for success in school and life;

**Ready schools** are prepared to meet the individual needs of the diverse children who enter kindergarten;

**Ready parents and families** have the information and resources needed to be their children’s first and most important teachers; and

**Ready early learning professionals and communities** have the information and resources needed to support parents, children and schools; and

**Whereas,** The Department of Early Learning, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Thrive by Five Washington are committed to working together to create an environment of cooperation and an early learning system in Washington State that is capable of supporting readiness of children and schools and of engaging parents and families, and communities; and

**Whereas**, we agree that by working collaboratively and in partnership, all children in Washington may reach their full potential and will have the best opportunity to succeed in school and life;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that the leaders of the Washington State Early Learning Partnership acknowledge and honor the prior work and involvement of families and children, local community groups, organizations, schools, and individuals throughout the state that have passionately and diligently moved early learning programs forward; and

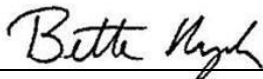
**Be It Further Resolved**, that development of an aligned statewide early learning system requires us to continue to engage stakeholders and leaders to work together toward a common vision; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that in order to assure accountability and better communicate a common vision, the leaders of the Washington State Early Learning Partnership will develop an accountability framework identifying the organizational lead for each priority area and key actions of partners, and furthermore the Partnership leaders agree to meet quarterly to assess the progress in each of the priority areas; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Washington State Early Learning Partnership defines “lead responsibility” to mean convening interested parties, including but not limited to parents, early learning and K-12 professionals, and the primary responsibility for document production; and

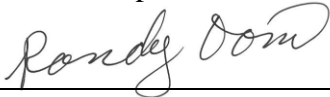
**Be It Finally Resolved**, that key roles of partners will include participation of staff from each agency to support development and assure alignment of each priority area with programs and resources to ensure the advancement of a seamless, learner-focused, world-class early learning system in Washington State.

**Signed now this day, August 11, 2009**



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Dr. Bette Hyde  
Director, Department of Early Learning



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Randy Dorn  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction



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Nina Auerbach  
President and CEO, Thrive by Five Washington